

WORKSHOP NO. 1

Held at Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Hall
Sept. 20, 2001

What are the Issues ?

What is our Vision?

Part 1

Purpose of Workshop 1

Purpose of the Workshop

- Supply background information on new water agreement
- Describe process leading toward agreement adoption
- Describe elements of special public participation opportunities
- Gather information from public regarding:
 - Issues to be addressed in new agreement
 - Components of “vision statement” to guide the new agreement

Part 2

Background Information

Sonoma Co Water Agency

- Created in 1949
- Multi-purpose (flood control, water supply, wastewater services, recreation)
- BOS is Bd of Directors (5 members)
- 216 Employees
- Annual Budget - \$93 million

Relative Expenditures

- 51% Water Supply and RR Project
- 39% Wastewater Services
- 8% Flood Control
- 2% Other

Water Supply Functions

- Local Government Sponsor of COE Projects
 - Lake Mendocino (69,000 ac-ft)
 - Lake Sonoma (212,000 ac-ft)
- Husband Water Rights on RR (75,000 afa)
- Operate Water Supply/Transmission System
 - Aqueduct Demand was 62,000 last year
 - Predicted to Grow to about 89,000

Russian River Watershed

- 1485 sq miles watershed area (Ukiah to Cotati)
- Precipitation – 44 inches
- Annual Flow – 1.6 million ac-ft/yr
- Excellent reference:

Calif. Rivers Assessment Interactive Web
Data Base (Calif. Resources Agency)

<http://endeavor.des.ucdavis.edu/newcara/>

Aqueduct System

- SCWA Aqueduct System
 - Diversion facilities (collectors)
 - Pumps and Tanks
 - Aqueducts (Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Petaluma, Cotati to RR Intertie)
- North Marin Aqueduct (also wheels water to Marin Municipal WD)

Who It Serves?

- 505,700 population*
- 156,500 residential connections
- 14,950 commercial connections

* 36% of these are served by Marin Municipal WD
which currently meets 25% of its demand from the
Aqueduct System

3 Water Supply Agreements (signing agencies)

- Eleventh Amended Agree (Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, and Forestville, North Marin, Valley of Moon WDs)
- Supplemental Water Supply Agree (Marin Municipal WD)
- MOU re Interim Impairment (all of the above + Town of Windsor)

Eleventh Amended Water Supply Agree

- Initial Agreement was 1974
- Agency builds/operates Aqueduct System
- Water Contractors pay O&M and Capital Costs:
 - per ac-ft commodity charge
 - varies depending on which aqueduct you take water from (\$359 to \$383 per ac-ft)

Agreement Authorizes SCWA to Build New Facilities

- Tip out shows details
- Estimated cost is \$183 million
- Construction is spread out over 36 year period
- New updated “Economic and Financial Report”,(Sept 2001) just released by Agency

Entitlements

- Two parts:
 - maximum flow rate (mgd during max. month)
 - Annual limit (ac-ft per year)
- Latter acts as a “cap” as it is based on the current Adopted General Plan

Entitlement - Amounts

• Santa Rosa	56.6	mgd
• Petaluma	21.8	
• North Marin WD	9.9	
• Rohnert Park	16.0	
• Valley of the Moon	8.5	
• Sonoma	6.3	
• Cotati	3.8	
• Forestville WD	1.5	
• Other Agency Customers	2.7	
• Marin Municipal WD	12.8	(some limits apply)
Total	148.9	

Who is the WAC?

(Water Advisory Committee)

- 8 Cities and Districts that signed the original version of the current Eleventh Amended Agreement
- Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, and Forestville, North Marin, Valley of Moon WDs
- Meets monthly
- Now Has Website

Who are the Parties to the New Agreement Negotiation?

- The WAC plus
- Marin Municipal Water District plus
- Town of Windsor

Current Major Problem: Diversion Capacity is too Thin

- In Dec. 1999, SCWA announced diversion capacity was 84 mgd and it could not reliably meet demands during summer peak periods.
- Agreement calls for a 20 mgd cushion to accommodate unforeseen outages, equipment failures, etc.
- Peak Month Demand in August of 2000 was 80 mgd (metered sales)

MOU re Interim Impairment

- Recognizes and commits use of local supply
- Allocates Available Capacity for next 5 yrs
- Encourages and provides WAC approval and a financing mechanism for:
 - Enhanced conservation efforts
 - Standby Local Supply to reduce summer peak demand on Aqueduct
 - Recycled Water Projects
- Requires BMPs as Conservation Standard
- Requires Special Conservation Efforts

MOU Also

- Identifies three highest priority elements of new system improvements:
 - Collector No. 6
 - Parallel North segment of Petaluma Aqueduct from Cotati to Ely Road
 - Parallel Sonoma Aqueduct from Eldridge Tanks to Madrone Road

Need for New Agreement

- System Expansion Issues (timing/how to finance/cost and cost allocations)
- Impairment Issues
- Conservation/Recycling
- Watershed Issues (including Potter Valley Project)
- ESA Issues and potential cost
- Consolidate the three agreements (equity issues)
- Representation Issues (Marin Municipal and Windsor)
- Integrated planning and management Issues
- Agreement governance issues

Parties Have Agreed:

- To move ahead with a two year plan
- Schedule
- Public Participation (early on)
 - 6 Workshops
 - New Agreement Website (Info. and comments)
- This effort is in addition to normal hearing input process.

Part 3

Brainstorming Sessions

- List the Issues
- Set forth elements to consider in Vision Statement

Workshop Ground Rules

- Wait to be recognized by your group leader
- Don't interrupt another group member
- Don't criticize the comments of another group member
- No one speaks twice until everyone who wants to speaks once
- Limit your comment to 30 seconds
- Comments will be recorded on flip chart
- Group members may also submit brief written comments to group recorder on note cards

Question 1.

What project implementation and financial practices have been effective under the existing agreement?

What issues need to be addressed in the new agreement?

Authorized Project

- Common Facilities
- Storage Facilities
- Aqueduct Facilities

\$183 million

Other Projects

- Water Conservation
- Recycled Water
- Local Supply
- Emergency Wells
- Potter Valley Project?

Capital Cost Allocations

- Aqueducts – reach by reach
in proportion to entitlements
- Common Facilities – uniform rate*
- Storage Facilities – uniform rate

* paid for by a uniform commodity rate (\$/ac-ft)

Operating Costs

- O & M – uniform rate
- Includes “pay as you go” funds for:
 - Storage and Common Facility
 - Conservation
 - Recycled Water Projects
 - Local supply standby peak demand reduction projects

Implementation

- Agreement says: capacity to be built in advance of need (as limited by peak month and annual entitlements)
- Safety factors:
 - R.R. Production (avg. day of max. month + 20 mgd)
 - Storage (avg. day of max. month x 1.5)
 - SCWA emergency wells (per WAC)

Financing

- Revenue Bonds
- Pay as you go
- Other (Certificates of Participation, loans, etc.)

Question 2.

What water conservation and recycling practices have been effective under the current agreement?

What issues need to be addressed in the new agreement?

SCWA Requires Conservation

- Each water contractor must implement conservation measures
- SCWA Water Supply and Transmission System Project EIR commits 6,600 acre feet per year of conservation savings
- Penalty fees can be assessed for failure to achieve conservation savings

SCWA Funds Conservation

- Since 1998, each contractor has received funds
- \$15 million over ten years, or \$1.5 million annually
- SCWA staff support

CUWCC Affiliation

- California Urban Water Conservation Council membership
- Best Management Practices for Urban Water Conservation (BMPs)

Impairment Condition MOU

- Recycled water and local supply projects funded
- CUWCC membership required
- Some standards established

Next Contract... some ideas...

- Funding for recycled water projects
- Standards for all contractors e.g., water meters, leak detection
- Continued CUWCC involvement
- ???

Question 3.

What environmental practices (projects) have been effective under the current agreement?

What issues need to be addressed in the new agreement?

Many Environmental Issues

- River and Watershed
- Transmission System Facilities (\$183 million) that are authorized for funding
 - Diversion and Treatment Facilities
 - Pumps
 - Pipelines
 - Storage Tank

EIR Status on Facilities

- EIR - Public Reviewed and Board Certified
- Challenged on 4 points (CEQA, Planning Act, Water Code, Public Trust)
- Trial Court has ruled in Agency's Favor on first two points
- Appeal after Trial Court Rules?
- Time to complete process?

Some Early Facilities Delayed: Outcomes To Date

- MOU re Temporary Impairment
 - Allocates available water
 - Enhanced Conservation
 - Recycling Projects
 - Local Supply Projects
- Method of charging for water and costs
- Collector 6 goes forward

Endangered Species Act

- Listings (Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon and Steelhead)
- Biological Assessment - \$8 million, due in Spring
- Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Service (130 days?)
- Impacts on Transmission Project
 - More Facilities?
 - Costs

Question 4.

What agreement governance practices have been effective under the current agreement?

What issues need to be addressed in the new agreement?

Governing Board

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in their capacity as Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency is the ultimate responsible party for all legal and financial decisions of SCWA

Water Advisory Committee (WAC)

- Established by the Water Supply Agreement
- Made up of one representative from each water contractor

WAC Decision Making Process

- WAC approval requires both of the following:
 - approval of more than fifty percent of the weighted votes (weighting is by entitlement)
 - approval of at least 5 of the 8 water contractors

WAC Powers

- Have increased in response to a growing water system and growing community
- Examples of WAC powers:
 - Determine compliance with Water Conservation requirements
 - Approve water supply contract amendments
 - Approve acquisition of the Potter Valley Project
 - Reviews and approves some projects and studies carried out by SCWA

New Agreement

- Needs to look at new ways to improve the operability of the water supply system
- Requires 100% “yes” vote
- Needs to be simple to read and understand

Question 5.

In addition to the issues discussed already this evening, are there any other issues that should be addressed in the new water agreement or in the vision statement?

Part 4

Close

Next Step

- What will become of information gathered at this workshop?
 - Comments will be typed up and posted on website
 - Draft Vision Statement
 - Parties will consider
- Using the Water Agreement website
 - Additional comments may be submitted
 - Those unable to attend this workshop may also submit comments via the website
- Comments may also be mailed or faxed to John Nelson
- Comments relative to Workshop #1 need to be submitted by September 30, 2001.

Contact for Comments

[www.scwa.ca.gov/wac/newagreement
/newagreement.html](http://www.scwa.ca.gov/wac/newagreement/newagreement.html)

Click on “Public Outreach”

Click on “click here to enter comments”

or

John Olaf Nelson Water Resources Management

1833 Castle Dr

Petaluma, CA 94954

Fax: (707) 778 - 8620

Also Note That:

Additional Information will be posted at the website:

- Background Information Handout
- Copy of MOU re Interim Impairment